EGYPT

- 1. Suez Canal remains problem, Egypt has stated will not consider MEDO until evacuation of Canal zone accomplished.
 - a) Egptians view Canal as valueless in time of war, easily defended by Egyptian forces.
 - b) West views Canal zone as strategically important for air and military facilities.
 - c) UK visualizes phased withdrawal over 18 months.
 - d) Egyptians emphasize importance of complete and speedy withdrawal.

NSA review completed

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EGYPT

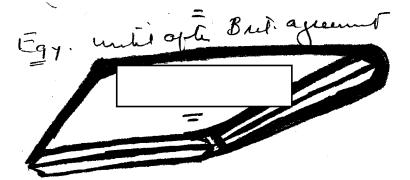
Following the Sudan agreement of 12 February, both the British and the Egyptian governments expressed themselves anxious to begin negotiations on the Suez problem. Official Egyptian pronouncements have emphasized the importance attached to the complete and speedy evacuation of all foreign troops from the Canal Zone.

This view overlooks the strategic importance that the West attaches to the existance of air and military facilities in this area. In addition to this basic difference in approach, the time of evacuation is expected to complicate Anglo-Egyptian negotiations since according to present British plans, the withdrawal would take approximately 18 months.

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